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MESSAGES

OF

GOV. ANDREW G. CURTIN,

RELATIVE TO THE

Reserve Corps,

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

Singerly & Myers, State Printers.

MESSAGES

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GOV. ANDREW G. CURTIN,

RELATIVE TO THE

RESERVE CORPS,

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, *Harrisburg, Pa.*,
January 12, 1863.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—In the annual message which I had the honor to communicate to the Legislature, I said: "In regard to the election of officers in the Reserve Corps and the recruitment of the regiments of that corps and of our other gallant regiments of volunteers, I proposed to send a special message in a few days."

The 24th section of the act of Assembly under which the Reserve Corps was organized, is in these words:

"SECTION 24. That the several companies and regiments composing said volunteer corps shall be entitled to elect, and the Governor shall commission, officers similar in number and rank to those allowed like troops in the army of the United States: *Provided*, That the Governor shall have power to appoint and commission chaplains for said corps, and to designate their rank."

And the act of Congress under which the volunteer forces were received into the service of the United States contains this provision:

"The vacancies in this force shall be filled by the Governors of the respective States in the same manner as the original appointments were made."

In accordance with these enactments, the officers of the Reserve Corps, at its organization, were duly elected and commissioned. After they had gone into the field, upon vacancies occurring, certificates of election were forwarded and commissions issued thereon until some time in July last, when an order was issued from the division headquarters, directing that thereafter elections should not be held. The reason assigned for this, as I understand it, was that it demoralized the corps and prevented, in some instances, the deserved promotion of those who had won, by their gallantry in the field, such distinction. Lists of promotions made by the colonels of regiments, with the approval of the commanding generals, were forwarded to me, and feeling anxious that those who had been promoted should be commissioned at once, I asked the advice of the Attorney General, who,

after examination, expressed his opinion (in which I concurred) that the officers could not be commissioned under the existing laws without elections having been held. It was therefore illegal for me to issue the commissions.

Matters remained in this condition until the 10th of October, when, after the battles of Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam, a list of promotions, rendered necessary by the casualties of those actions, was forwarded to me from the Head-Quarters of the division, through the commanding generals and the War Department, with the following endorsements, which fully explain themselves:

"Appointments for promotions in Division P. R. V. C.
Respectfully forwarded.

T. SEYMOUR,
Brig. Gen. Commanding Division.

September 29th."

HEAD-QUARTERS FIRST ARMY CORPS,
September 29, 1862.

"These nominations for promotions are respectfully forwarded. At the same time I think it proper to observe, that the position assumed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, that he cannot and will not appoint officers in the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, without elections, is one that he is sustained by the laws bearing on the subject. The act of Congress calling the volunteer force into service, says: 'The vacancies in this force shall be filled by the Governors of the respective States, in the same manner as the original appointments were made.' Now, the act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, under which the Reserve Corps was originally organized, required elections for appointments to fill vacancies; and under this law and the United States law, the Governor has decided he cannot appoint without elections. Whether it is competent for the United States to fill these vacancies, without regard to the State of Pennsylvania, is a question I do not pretend to discuss or decide.

GEO. G. MEADE,
Brigadier General."

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
September 30, 1862.

"Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General, for reference to his Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania: As a matter of course, the

appointments and promotions must be made according to law. But, in whatever mode they be made, it is of the last importance that they be made at once.

GEO. B. M'CLELLAN,
Maj. Gen. Commanding.

By S. S. Williams, A. A. G."

"Adjutant General's Office,
October, 6, 1862.

Respectfully referred to his excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania. By order of the Secretary of War.

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Ass't. Adj't. General."

Again, on the first of December, I received the following letter from Brigadier (now Major) General George G. Meade, with the endorsement of the commanding generals and the War Department, which also explain themselves:

"Head-Quarters, Division P. R. V. C.
October 20th, 1862.

"Brig. Gen. S. S. Williams, A. A. G., *Head-Quarters Army of the Potomac:*

"General:—Numerous nominations to fill vacancies in the several regiments of this division have been, from time to time, forwarded to the Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac, but no appointments or commissions have been received in return.

"As the condition of affairs in reference to this matter is anomalous, and likely to lead to confusion and other evils unless settled on some permanent basis, I beg leave to submit the following statement, for the information and action of the General Commanding, and, if necessary, the Department of War:

"The several regiments constituting this division form what was called, at its organization, the 'Pennsylvania Reserve Corps,' they having been organized by the State of Pennsylvania, under a special act of the Legislature, for the purpose of being held in reserve for the protection of the State border, the State having, at that time, filled her quota of the call of the General Government for volunteers.

"After the battle of Manassas, on a second call, this Reserve Corps was turned over to the United States, and duly mustered into service. The law under which this corps was received into service, is the act approved July 22, 1861, amended by section three of an act approved August 6th, 1861. This last section states on vacancies occurring in the volunteer forces called into service by the act in question, they shall be filled by the Governors of the respective States *in the same manner as the original appointments were made!* The original appointments in the Reserve Corps were made under

the special act of the Legislature, organizing the corps, which required that the officers should be *elected by the men* before being commissioned by the Governor of the State.

For a long time, (up to last June) all vacancies were filled by elections; the evils of this system, however, became so great, (resulting, in one instance, in a regiment electing as Lieutenant Colonel an individual who had only a short time before been discharged from the service, by order of the President of the United States, as incompetent to perform the duties of Major of the same regiment) that the Department of War requested the Governor of Pennsylvania to appoint to the Reserve Corps, the same as to the other regiments from Pennsylvania where commissions were conferred on the nomination of Colonels and Brigadier Generals. The Governor, however, it is understood, replied he had not this power, and referred to the act of Congress requiring him to appoint in the same manner as the original appointments were made, and then to the act of the Legislature, where elections were required for the original appointments. The Governor also referred to the fact that he had requested the Legislature to repeal this provision of the original act, and that the bill had failed to pass both houses.

"I enclose herewith a copy of letter received by me last June, from the Adjutant General of the State, communicating the above.

"By special order No. 221, dated 'Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Camp near Harrison's Landing, Aug. 1, 1862,' numerous appointments in this division were made, '*subject to the approval of the Governor of Pennsylvania.*' The individuals thus designated were duly mustered into the service of the United States, have been paid and recognized in their respective commissions; but there is no evidence on record at these Head-Quarters, nor is it believed any exists, of their appointments having been approved by the Governor of the State, nor have any of them received commissions to this day. Since this order, no appointments have been made, though many nominations have been transmitted to the Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac, from whence, it is understood, they are forwarded to the Governor of the State, from whom no reply is received, he having defined his position. Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary either that the commanding General or the Department of War assume the authority to appoint to fill vacancies in this corps independent of the Governor of the State, or that a return be had to the system of elections, till such time as either Congress or the State Legislature shall see fit to amend existing acts, which I have to state, in my judgment, now compel elections.

"There is a partial check to be found to the evils of the elective system, in the prerogative which the Governor has given to the Brigade and Division Commanders, through whom the certificates of election are transmitted, and who can disapprove and thus stop improper appointments, if they cannot secure the best nominations.

"The object of this communication is to bring this matter to the notice of the Commanding General, in order that the present anomalous condition may be changed. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. G. MEADE,
Brigadier Gen. Commanding Division."

"Head-Quarters, First Army Corps,
October 21, 1862.

Respectfully forwarded,

JOHN F. REYNOLDS,
Brigadier General Volunteers, Commanding."

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
November 12, 1862.

"Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General for the consideration of the War Department.

"It is not seen what can be done in this matter, other than to ask of his Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania, to invite again the Legislature of that State to amend the present condition of affairs in the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, by such legislation as may be appropriate. This it is requested that the War Department will do.

"But how far legislation can effect the matter in a remedial way is not clear. The contract of enlistment of the soldiers of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Reserve Corps includes in its condition their right to select their own officers. This right has been resisted because the corps would have been worthless were its exercise continued or allowed. The matter has become more complicated with each step that has been taken in regard to it.

"Upon a review of the whole subject, I am now satisfied that it would have been better to have proceeded in the promotions in this corps, according to the laws of Pennsylvania (which in the earlier steps were not understood) and risked the consequent mischief. They could not have been more threatening to the demoralization of the corps than the present condition of affairs is in fact to its existence.

A. E. BURNSIDE, Major General."

"ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
November 21, 1862.

"Respectfully referred to the Governor of Pennsylvania, whose attention is earnestly invited to the remarks of General Burnside.

By order of the Secretary of War,

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General."

To which I replied as follows:

"*Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:*

"SIR:—I acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Brig. Gen. George G. Meade, who commands the division of Pennsylvania troops known as the 'Reserve Corps,' calling the attention of the General Commanding to the anomalous condition of affairs in his division, and pointing out the difficulties likely to result from the election of officers, if continued, or rather from the present state of matters,(elections not being held, and commissions to fill vacancies, not having been issued for want of them,) forwarded by Brig. Gen. John F. Reynolds, who commands the First Army Corps, and endorsed by Major General Burnside, specially requesting 'that the Governor of Pennsylvania invite again the Legislature of the State to amend the present condition of affairs in the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, by such legis-

lation as may be appropriate ;' and further, that the present condition of affairs threatens the existence of the corps, and a further endorsement, from the War Department, calling my attention to the remarks of Gen. Burnside.

"At the last session of the Legislature a bill was introduced repealing the section of the act of May 16, 1861, under which the Reserve Corps was organized, requiring that the officers should be elected. It passed the House of Representatives, but failed in the Senate, and, while I feel a great delicacy in again appealing to the Legislature for powers which are to vest in me, the wants of the service seem so imperative, and the recommendations come from sources so distinguished, that I will, at the earliest moment, again call the attention of the Legislature to the subject, and earnestly recommend it to their early and favorable notice.

"No one deplores more than I do the condition of affairs in the Reserve Corps. Owing to it, gallant and meritorious officers have been deprived of the promotion which their brilliant achievements had so fully entitled them to; but I trust it will be remembered that this is no fault of mine, and that I have always entertained and expressed a just pride in the name they have won for themselves and the State.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. CURTIN."

In accordance with the statements contained in the foregoing letter, I commend the subject to your earliest attention, and although I would gladly escape further responsibility in the selection and appointment of military officers, it is apparent that the recommendations of gentlemen who have had experience should not be disregarded, and that such legislation should at once be had as will relieve this gallant corps from further embarrassment, and place it under like enactments and regulations with those which control the other volunteer regiments from Pennsylvania.

I beg leave, in closing this subject, to add copies of General Orders No. 17 and 22, issued by me early in the year, relating to promotions.

"HEAD-QUARTERS, PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA,
"*Harrisburg*, February 26, 1862.

"*General Order, No.* 17.

"All promotions of officers in regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers, wherever the Governor has the power to appoint, under the order of the War Department of the 4th of May, 1861, and the act of Congress of the 22d of July, 1861, will be made in the order of their seniority; and all 2d Lieutenants will be appointed from the non-commissioned officers and privates in the companies where the vacancies occur.

"This order only applies to officers below the rank of field officers, and will be enforced except in special cases which may be presented through the Colonels of regiments. By order of

A. G. CURTIN,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

A. L. RUSSELL, Adjutant General, P. M."

"HEAD-QUARTERS, PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA,
"*Harrisburg*, May 15, 1862.

"*General Order, No.* 22.

"General order No. 17 of these headquarters is so modified that—

"I. All promotions of line officers shall be made in the order of seniority in the companies in which vacancies occur.

"II. Sergeant Majors of regiments shall not, by reason of their appointment as such, lose their right of seniority in the company in which they were previously attached. By order of

A. G. CURTIN,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

A. L. RUSSELL. *Adjutant General.*"

With reference to the recruitment of the regiments from Pennsylvania now in the field, it is proper to say that the ordinary means of securing recruits having languished and been partially withdrawn, and constant applications being made to me by officers in the field to fill the regiments, I addressed the President of the United States, on the 30th of September last, as follows:

PENNSYLVANIA, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Sept. 30, 1862.

"SIR: I have the honor to refer to some of the topics of our conversation last week, at which time you were pleased to say, that you desired the Governors of the loyal States present to put their suggestions in writing.

"I proposed, at that time, to fill the regiments in service most reduced by the casualties of war, by retiring a given number from the more active service with the armies in the presence of the enemy, and having filled them and obtained a perfect re-organization, return them to the field and retire others until they were all filled to the standard established by the government, in the meantime supplying their places in the field with new regiments I named ten regiments as the number to be retired at each time from this State. Most of our regiments that have participated in the recent battles are reduced to mere skeletons, and although we have furnished about 15,000 recruits for regiments from this State, no efficient strength has been given to any of them.

"The Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, numbering thirteen regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and one of artillery, with a numerical strength of fifteen thousand seven hundred and sixty men, were taken into the service of the United States in July, 1861, immediately after the first battle at Manassas. The thirteen regiments of infantry did not muster four thousand men after the battle of Antietam. All of these regiments are much reduced in number, whilst many of them can scarcely be said to retain regimental organizations. The brilliant history of the Reserve Corps in the war and the State pride which has followed them since they entered the service, together with the circumstances surrounding their organization, would, I have no doubt, prove such incentives to enlistment that the corps could be filled to the maximum in a short space of time.

"I suggest that the corps be returned to the State, and placed in the camp at this Capital, and, if I am correct in my impression, the success would affect the minds of our people favorably, and other regiments in the service could be filled in their turn promptly.

"It is proper that, in this connection, I should say that the suggestions reflect the opinion of all the officers of the corps, I take this opportunity of again renewing the suggestions of all the Governors on the occasion referred to—that so far as consistent with the interests of the public service, sick and wounded volunteers be taken to the hospitals within the State in which they were enlisted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. CURTIN.

To His Excellency, A. LINCOLN, *President.*"

Not receiving any reply to this communication, on the 9th of October, I addressed a similar letter to Major General Geo. B. M'Clellan, then commanding the Army of the Potomac, which letter was delivered to him some time afterwards; and I subsequently learned informally, that Gen. M'Clellan thought favorably of the plan proposed, but having immediate use for the troops, could not retire them at that time. Thus the matter remained until the 1st of January, 1863, when I received the following letter from Col. H. G. Sickels, who now commands the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps:

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DIVISION PENNA. R. V. C.,
Camp near White Plain, Va., Dec. 26, 1862.

To His Excellency, ANDREW G. CURTIN,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

"DEAR SIR:—General Meade having been promoted to the command of the Fifth Army Corps, leaves me as the only surviving Colonel of those who came out in the Pennsylvania Reserves, temporarily in command of the noble old corps.

"The General, previous to taking his departure, wrote a letter to General Franklin, showing the present strength and deeimated condition of the corps, and strongly urging upon him the importance of sending them back to the State to recruit and re-organize.

"This I consider one of the most important steps that could be taken to preserve the original organization and their identity as a corps, in which the survivors feel and express so much pride.

"I would further state that Gen. Meade has represented the corps in the most favorable light in point of its present strength. I am well satisfied that from the thirteen old regiments we could not take into battle at this time over *twenty-five hundred, officers and men.*

"Of the 195 officers marked present, meaning all on special or detailed duty in the different departments included, and which could not be taken into the field, would reduce the number to 120. And of the 4,249 enlisted men, those included as teamsters, artificers, musicians, extra-duty men and

guards, besides an average of at least twenty sick in each regimental hospital, with an increase of double that number in case of a march, would make a difference in the aggregate of from 700 to 800 men.

"There is also another point to which I would respectfully call your attention, viz: Many non-commissioned officers have been promoted to the line for meritorious conduct in battle, who have never been commissioned, nor mustered into service as officers for want of their commissions; and in many instances these men are commanding companies.

"Of this class, several have been killed, and many so maimed, that they must be dismissed the service, with only the pay and pension of a non-commissioned officer or private, when by noble deeds of valor they had earned for themselves and families both the honor and emoluments of commissioned officers. With this state of things, the good men of the corps have become indifferent and show but little disposition to run great risks, to do which is so essential to success in battle, feeling that there is no reward for merit. This would be remedied, were we recalled to the State and the line filled with active and intelligent young men.

"I have written hastily, giving you some outlines of the facts, believing that a period of three months in Pennsylvania would see our ranks filled again to the maximum number prescribed by law; and I am confident that the Reserve Corps would re-enter the field with as much vigor and efficiency as when they first left the State. Believing it only waits your request upon the War Department to consummate this arrangement, and with full confidence that a matter so important to our existence as a distinct organization of State troops will engage your immediate attention, I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

H. G. SICKELS, Colonel,
Commanding Division P. R. V. C."

And the letter of General Meade, referred to in the foregoing, is as follows, viz:

"HEAD-QUARTERS, FIRST ARMY CORPS,
"*December* 25, 1862.

"*Major General W. B. Franklin,*

"Commanding Left Grand Division:

"GENERAL: I submit for your consideration a statement showing the present condition of the thirteen regiments of infantry constituting the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, and forming, together with two new regiments, the one hundred and twenty-first and one hundred and forty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, the third division first army corps. You will perceive there are present for duty 195 officers and 4,249 enlisted men. Absent, by authority, 159 officers and 3,740 men. I have to observe, however, of the number reported as absent, a very large proportion are the wounded, most of whom are so maimed and disabled that no expectation need be formed of their returning to active duty. I should therefore say as an estimate, that to re-organize the command there would be required the appointment of over 200 officers, and the enlistment of over 7,000 men.

This paper is forwarded to you on the eve of my giving up the command of the division, to call your attention to the necessity of some measure being immediately adopted to increase the efficiency of this command.

"The plan of sending officers into the State to recruit has been, on three separate occasions, attempted, and proved in each case a signal failure. There remains, then, two courses to adopt. One is to consolidate the existing force with a number of regiments equal to the number of officers and men for duty. The objection to this plan is that it destroys the organization and the prestige which the good conduct of the corps has acquired for it. Another plan would be to withdraw the command temporarily from the field, say for a period of two or three months, and return them to Pennsylvania, where, it is believed, from the great reputation the corps has acquired, the pride the State takes in it, and the enthusiasm its return would create, that in a short time its ranks would be filled, after pruning them of all useless members. Soon after the battle of Antietam, his Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania, proposed to the General commanding the Army of the Potomac, to receive and re-organize the corps; and it is believed the proposition was favorably received by the commanding General, but the exigencies of the movement prevented its execution.

"The further reduction of the corps by the recent battle, where it lost over 1,700 officers and men, and the probability that its services might, at this moment, be spared, together with the earnest desire I have that the organization which has contributed so largely to its success may be preserved, are the considerations which induce me to suggest this plan to you and recommend its adoption.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

GEO. G. MEADE,
Maj. Gen. Volunteers,

"Commanding Third Division, and, *pro tem.*, the First Army Corps."
(Official Copy. H. S. JONES, A. A. A. G.)

On the 2d inst., in compliance with the suggestions of General Meade and Col. Sickels, I addressed the War Department as follows:

"EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
"*Harrisburg*, Jan. 2, 1863.

"*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War*:

"SIR—I have received through Colonel H. G. Sickel, now commanding the division known as the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, a copy of a letter herewith appended, addressed by Maj. Gen. Geo. G. Meade (lately in command of the division) to Maj. Gen. Franklin, relative to the prospect of recruiting the regiments constituting the Pennsylvania Reserves to their proper standard. The facts so far as they are known to me, are so well and lucidly stated by General Meade, that it is unnecessary for me to repeat them. I regretted that the exingencies of the public service precluded the return of the 'Reserves' to this State, after the battle of Antietam, as requested by me, and I now desire to ask that the removal of that gallant body of men may be ordered to Harrisburg and allowed to go into camp, say for the period of three months, for the purpose of full and complete re-organization,

and if not incompatible with the public service, would be glad to see such an order issued—feeling as I do, fully satisfied that in that time a sufficient number of recruits could be obtained to refill the ranks, and to return the division to the army strengthened and reinvigorated for future usefulness. I desire to say that if such order is promptly issued, the period of the year is propitious for securing recruits, and that every exertion upon my part shall be used to accomplish so important an object, and thus add to the forces of the United States.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

A. G. CURTIN."

And deeming this a subject of sufficient importance, I despatched the Adjutant General of the State to Washington City, who presented the foregoing letter to the Department on the 3d inst., and received a verbal answer to the effect, that the Department, would consider the subject and give an answer in a few days.

I have therefore delayed this message until this time, but as yet have not received any communication from the Department.

You have now, gentlemen, before you all the information which is in my possession on this subject.

It may be proper to say that the plan proposed by me in my letter to the President—and as to the successful results of which I then had no doubts—was to be extended to all the regiments from Pennsylvania in the service, and that the Reserved Corps was asked for, first, simply because these regiments were the first to enter the service of the United States after the expiration of the term of service of the three months regiments, and because it is now a question whether that organization—raised as it was by the wisdom of the past, and pressed forward at an auspicious time for the welfare of our country, is to live only in history, or is to be continued in our National defence. The statistics before you show the probability of its utter extinguishment, and I submit the proposition to return them to the State to be recruited as the only alternative which I can devise to secure their continued usefulness.

I may have erred in believing that the vast army from Pennsylvania now in the field, could have thus been filled, but I can suggest no other plan for the attainment of this important object, and therefore submit the whole subject, with the sincere hope that the Legislature may be enabled, in its wisdom, to adopt such a course as will secure to the gallant and patriotic men who yet survive, all the aid, success and promotion which they have so richly merited.

A. G. CURTIN.

MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, January 14, 1863.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—On the 12th instant I had the honor to communicate to you a Message in regard to the election of officers in the Reserve Corps, and the recruitment of the regiments of that corps, and of our other gallant regiments of volunteers.

With that Message I presented all the information then in my possession on the subject; but since its transmission to you I have received a communication from the War Department which I hasten to lay before you, and which is as follows:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, D. C., January 12, 1863.

"*His Excellency, A. G. Curtin,*

"Governor of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa.:

"SIR: The Secretary of War directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., enclosing copy of one from General Meade to General Franklin, relative to recruiting the regiments constituting the 'Pennsylvania Reserve,' and asking that the remnant of that gallant body of men be ordered to Harrisburg, in order to fill its ranks.

"In reply, the Secretary desires me to say that there are numerous applications of this kind on file in regard to regiments from other States, which have been greatly reduced in recent battles. If one such request be acceded to, all similar applications must be granted. This would so reduce the armies in the field as not only to prevent any further operations for the next three or four months, but to endanger important positions now held by us. The War Department has uniformly refused applications of this kind, and cannot at the present time adopt a different policy.

I am Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

GEO. D. RUGGLES,
Assistant Adjutant General."

I feel it my duty to call the attention of the Legislature to the fact, that many of our regiments in the service of the Government have not been paid for a long period of time, and that many of the regiments taken into the service under the calls made in July last, have not received any pay, nor the promised bounties from the Government.

It cannot be otherwise than that the families of many of the soldiers now in the service are suffering,—particularly in counties where arrangements

have not been made to pay bounties, or where the funds provided for that purpose have become exhausted, or the application of them has ceased.

The families of the drafted militia, taken into the service of the United States, must be in like condition, and are equally deserving the care of the Government.

I submit all these matters to the consideration of the Legislature, trusting that you will take such action as the helpless condition of those relying upon the pay of the soldier and the generosity of the Government would seem to justify. It is clear that the citizens who go into the service of their country should be paid promptly: but even if thus paid, they would not, in many cases, receive sufficient to maintain their families. The highest obligation rests upon the citizens who remain at home to make ample provision for the comfort of those who have been left dependent by the brave men who have to encounter the perils and hardships of military service;—and no subject of paramount importance can claim your attention.

A. G. CURTIN.

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